

6 Adirondack Street
South Burlington, VT 05403

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
Department of Justice, Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my opinion of the recent settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft. I am a proponent of free enterprise and think that government should stay out of big business. Microsoft has been the leading innovator of technology over the last 10 years, and should be applauded for its ability to standardize the tech sector to the consumers' benefit.

What annoys me about the lawsuits is that they never address the consumers themselves. The terms of the settlement only seem to help the competitors gain some edge that they did not have before. For instance, Microsoft will be documenting various interfaces for use by competitors. They will also be forced to not retaliate against software developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows.

So while the lawsuits and settlement is flawed, I think it is in best interest of public for it to be finalized. Further litigation could be detrimental to our ailing IT sector and ultimately postpone our economy's recovery. I urge your office to make the right choice and make the settlement a reality.

Sincerely,



Brad Maunsell

6 Adirondack Street
South Burlington, VT 05403

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
Department of Justice, Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing to express my opinion of the recent settlement between the US Department of Justice and Microsoft. I am a proponent of free enterprise and think that government should stay out of big business. Microsoft has been the leading innovator of technology over the last 10 years, and should be applauded for its ability to standardize the tech sector to the consumers' benefit.

What annoys me about the lawsuits is that they never address the consumers themselves. The terms of the settlement only seem to help the competitors gain some edge that they did not have before. For instance, Microsoft will be documenting various interfaces for use by competitors. They will also be forced to not retaliate against software developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows.

So while the lawsuits and settlement is flawed, I think it is in best interest of public for it to be finalized. Further litigation could be detrimental to our ailing IT sector and ultimately postpone our economy's recovery. I urge your office to make the right choice and make the settlement a reality.

Sincerely,


Peggy Maunsell